

OLC 69-0012

11 JAN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Report of CIA Relations with the  
Congress - 1968

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. This is the annual report of the Office of Legislative Counsel and covers the highlights of the Agency's relationship with the Second Session of the 90th Congress. It also outlines probable areas of special concern during the First Session of the 91st Congress. During the first four months of the Session, Mr. John S. Warner was responsible for Agency relationships with Congress. Mr. John M. Maury assumed the duties of Legislative Counsel on 5 May 1968.

3. CIA Subcommittees - Briefings

a. House Armed Services

Despite repeated efforts on our part to have the Subcommittee schedule regular and frequent Agency briefings, only one briefing was held. This was due primarily to the pressures of political activity in a Presidential election year. The one briefing dealt with Soviet and Chinese advanced weaponry, the mid-East situation, the Warsaw Pact countries and the Soviet MRV effort.

b. House Appropriations

Agency officials met with this Subcommittee three times. The first meeting was confined to budgetary matters, while the two remaining briefings concerned Soviet ABM, ICBM and submarines, Chinese advanced weapons and world trouble spots. Mr. Robert Michaels, of the Committee staff, visited the Agency in March and December to receive briefings on the Agency budget.

c. Senate Armed Services and Appropriations

25X1A The Agency held two briefings for the combined CIA Subcommittees of Senate Armed Services and Appropriations. As in the past, these two Subcommittees continued to meet jointly as a matter of convenience. One of the briefings covered the Agency budget and the other dealt with substantive intelligence, including Agency projects and [redacted]. Three members of the Foreign Relations Committee were invited to these meetings: Senators Fulbright, Mansfield and Hickenlooper. Senator Fulbright did not accept, but his colleagues attended both briefings. Mr. Woodruff, of the Appropriations Committee staff, spent one full day on a tour of [redacted] facilities and visited Headquarters in December to review the Agency budget. Senator Milton Young and Mr. Woodruff were briefed by [redacted] during their visit to [redacted] in November.

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4. Other Committees - Briefings

a. Twelve briefings were presented to other committees of the House and Senate -- one less than in 1967. Among committees briefed were the full Armed Services Committees of both houses, the full Senate Appropriations Committee, the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, the Manned Space Flight Subcommittee of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, and the Subcommittee on Manpower and Civil Service of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

b. At the request of the Policy Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, the members of the Subcommittee met on one occasion at the Agency.

5. Individual Briefings

More than sixty members of the House and Senate were briefed individually on a variety of subjects. This number included several CIA Subcommittee members, who felt the need for periodic individual briefings in the absence of regular Subcommittee meetings.

6. Legislation

a. The Agency retirement bill was of foremost interest during this Session. On the recommendation of Senator Russell, the Agency limited its proposed legislation to the retirement cost-of-living adjustments. Admiral Taylor testified before the CIA Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee which reported the bill favorably. It subsequently passed both houses and was signed into law by the President on 30 September.

b. Another bill of interest to the Agency was S. 1035 (constitutional rights of Government employees). This bill was introduced by Senator Sam J. Ervin and passed the Senate in the First Session by a vote of 79 to 4. As passed by the Senate, the bill contained provisions which would seriously affect the operation of the Agency and from which the Agency was unable to obtain a complete exemption. In the House, the bill was referred to the Manpower and Civil Service Subcommittee of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, chaired by Representative David N. Henderson. During this Subcommittee's hearings, including one at which the Director testified, several members expressed serious concern over the effects of the bill on the security agencies and the bill was permitted to die in Committee.

c. Other bills of particular interest to the Agency were:

(i) The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, containing language affecting wire-tapping and eavesdropping. Before this legislation left Committee, the Agency was successful in securing a change in the language to protect our needs in these areas. This bill was passed by both houses and has become law.

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(3) **Congressional Oversight.** No action was taken on any of the 16 resolutions, which were introduced in the First Session, calling for a joint committee on intelligence matters. No new resolutions or bills were introduced in the Second Session.

(4) **Amendments to the Internal Security Act of 1950.** Two similar bills were introduced to amend certain portions of the Internal Security Act of 1950 and to establish a Central Security Office to coordinate the administration of Federal personnel loyalty and security programs. Before the bills were introduced, the Agency succeeded in securing language changes exempting the Agency from those portions of the bills which might affect the Agency. Neither bill was reported out of committee but it is expected that the bill introduced by Senator Eastland will be reintroduced early in the 91st Congress.

7. **General**

a. **Sentinel ABM system.** The Agency was called on by several members of the Senate for briefings on the Soviet ABM system prior to the Senate debate on the Sentinel system. Senator John Sherman Cooper called for a closed Session of the Senate in order to include classified material in his attempt to block funds for this project. Intelligence information was used by both supporters and opponents of the project in support of their respective arguments. The record of this debate was subsequently sanitized and published as part of the **Congressional Record**. Although the Agency was mentioned in connection with briefings before Senator Gore's Disarmament Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, no information was disclosed which had not previously been made public by the Department of Defense.

b. **Relations with members.** Relations with members of Congress continue to be generally excellent. Three

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members visited Headquarters for breakfast or luncheon briefings and members of three congressional committee staffs were briefed here.

c. Routine business initiated by members included about 1400 personal contacts and 1000 correspondence items.

d. Detailed review of Congressional actions provides a daily analysis of developments in the Congress, and gives some insight into members' attitudes and positions on issues. Thirty-two thousand pages of the Congressional Record were reviewed for this and other purposes. Items of interest to the Agency were identified and sent to appropriate components and a file copy of the Record item retained for future reference. In addition to the Record and 8,700 legislative items, 1,650 reports resulting from legislative or investigative hearings were also reviewed.

### 8. Conclusion

a. The following are potential problem areas in the 91st Congress:

(1) Constitutional rights of Federal employees. Senator Ervin will presumably reintroduce a bill similar to S. 1035. He is expected to remain adamantly opposed to a complete exemption from such legislation for the Agency. It is not known at this time whether Ervin's Subcommittee will report out the proposed legislation without further hearings, but we shall pursue every reasonable course to obtain Agency exemption. It is expected that the members of the House Subcommittee on Manpower and Civil Service will remain opposed to the bill as introduced by Senator Ervin, but he may be able to exert enough pressure to force the bill out of the Subcommittee.

(2) Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The CIA Subcommittees on Appropriations in both houses have expressed strong support for RFE and RL, and we may encounter some problems with these

Committees if it becomes necessary to discontinue funding these organizations. In addition, Senator Eastland has expressed considerable concern that the Radios might be closed down and stated that he knew at least eight other Senators who would protest vigorously should this be done.

b. Measures which the Agency may wish to consider sponsoring in the 91st Congress include:

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(2) Legislation to update Agency retirement and personnel benefits.

c. In addition, the Agency may wish informally to register interest in, but not officially sponsor, an amendment to the Internal Security Act of 1950 dealing with the unauthorized disclosure of classified information.

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